

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 46

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 124—Relative to Mathematics Awareness Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 30, 2014.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 124, Wieckowski. Mathematics Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim April 2014 as Mathematics Awareness Month and would, among other things, encourage colleges, universities, and other organizations to hold events to celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, Engagement with and education in mathematics are key to preparing students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields; and

WHEREAS, Mathematics Awareness Month began in 1986 when President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation for National Mathematics Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, April 2014 is recognized as Mathematics Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, The theme for Mathematics Awareness Month 2014, “Mathematics, Magic, and Mystery,” highlights how brain-teasing challenges such as magic squares, Möbius bands, and card tricks promote creative and rational thinking, attract a wide range of people to mathematics, and often inspire serious mathematical research; and

WHEREAS, The theme of Mathematics Awareness Month 2014 honors the centennial of the birth of renowned mathematics popularizer Martin Gardner, whose extensive writings inspired enthusiasts of all ages to engage deeply with or even pursue a career in mathematics; and

WHEREAS, According to a 2011 study by the United States Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, although women fill close to half the jobs in the United States economy, they make up only 24 percent of the STEM workforce; and

WHEREAS, Encouraging women and members of other underrepresented groups to join the STEM workforce in proportion to their representation in the overall labor force will help ease the STEM worker shortage;

WHEREAS, Mathematics Awareness Month encourages colleges, universities, and other organizations to hold events that pique and engage students' interest in mathematics; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature proclaims April 2014 to be Mathematics Awareness Month, and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature does all of the following:

- (a) Supports the goals and ideals of Mathematics Awareness Month.
- (b) Encourages colleges, universities, and other organizations to hold events to celebrate Mathematics Awareness Month.
- (c) Urges the establishment of STEM outreach programs to encourage the recruitment of girls and women to study and work in STEM fields.
- (d) Supports increased public awareness and appreciation for the importance of mathematics at all levels of the educational system in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.